

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR VOLUME 43

Welcome to the 1996–1997 program year for the California Botanical Society! We have completed another successful year, and I look forward to the coming year of events. On behalf of the Society, there are a number of Council members I want to thank for their contributions. Bob Patterson completes his term as Editor of *Madroño* with issue 43(4). Bob has provided great guidance for the journal over the past three years and has made many important contributions including the editing of the Jepson Symposium issue and review of the first supplement issue. Thanks Bob! We are very pleased to welcome Beth Painter as the new Editor, and we look forward to working with her. I also thank Margriet Wetherwax and Holly Forbes for their many contributions as Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. During the last four years, they have provided important team work in dealing with the many aspects of membership, subscriptions, dues, and back issues of *Madroño*. The Society could not function without the contributions of Council members such as Margriet and Holly. We welcome Sue Bainbridge, Corresponding Secretary, and Mary Butterwick, Treasurer, who have worked closely with Margriet and Holly during the transition between board members.

As Graduate Student Representative, Lisa Schultheis demonstrated her many talents in helping to coordinate the monthly, post-meeting receptions and in organizing the Graduate Student Meeting, held this year at the Claremont Graduate Schools and co-sponsored by the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. The meeting was a grand success by all accounts thanks to Lisa's thorough efforts and the efforts of her assistants. The Society is proud to sponsor this event biennially and we look forward to working with Staci Markos, our new graduate student representative, to organize the next meeting in February 1998. I also thank Mark Porter, the past Second Vice-President, for organizing the Annual Banquet, which also was co-sponsored by the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and held on the Pitzer College Campus in Claremont. The Council appreciates the tremendous effort that went in to organizing this very successful event. We thank Ken Berg for his many insightful comments during the evening's address entitled *Conservation of Native California Plants in the Changing Political Landscape*. I am pleased to welcome Mona Bourell back to the Council as the new Second Vice-President who will organize this year's Annual Banquet to be held at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. We are fortunate to have Reid Moran as the banquet speaker. The title of his talk is *Guadalupe Island Flora, and what's left of it!* I look forward to seeing many of you at the Academy on February 22!

Many others also have made important contributions to the Society. I thank Roxanne Bittman, Recording Secretary, for preparing minutes of the monthly Council meetings; Dean Taylor, First Vice-President, for organizing the annual program of speakers; Past-President Peggy Fiedler and Council members Mary Butterwick, John Little, and Tony Morosco for their assistance, advice, and attendance at meetings; and Brent Mischler and the University and Jepson herbaria for co-sponsoring the receptions that followed the presentations at the regular meetings. The presentations and receptions were a great success last year and I encourage more members and friends to attend. I thank John Little for continuing on the Council for a second term, and I welcome Margriet Wetherwax for her first term as a Council member. I am pleased to announce that John Little and Sycamore Associate have been working on an index to all issues of *Madroño*, which will be available in the near future. Thanks John for undertaking this large effort.

Various new and lingering issues and topics will be addressed by the Council in the coming year. We are continually mindful of the need to keep the Society finan-

cially sound and at the same time continue to publish a high-quality journal. We look to a growth in membership as one way to assist in this. I courage all members to request their botanical colleagues and friends to become members. I am always amazed at how many academic, agency, and applied botanists in California and the West are not members of the California Botanical Society, and thus do not receive Madroño. We also will work to have Madroño listed henceforth with Current Contents so that papers published in the journal are cited more frequently. This action alone may help increase membership. We have been gradually increasing dues as another way to keep pace with rising costs. We still have a relatively low dues fee at \$27 for regular membership.

This is my final year of a three-year term as President. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity for such an important organization, and I am pleased to have participated in the continuing evolution of the Society and in the many significant events we have sponsored during the past two years. During the next few months, the Society's Nominating Committee will be proposing a slate for President (3-yr), First Vice-President (3-yr), and Second Vice-President (1-yr). Please send to me the names of individuals you would like to have considered for these positions and I will be happy to forward them to the Committee.

In closing, I note with great sadness the passing of George Clark, President of the California Native Plant Society. George died in June the week before the convening of the *Conference on the Ecology, Conservation, and Management of Vernal Pool Ecosystems*, which CNPS co-sponsored. In addition to being a wonderful person, George made many contributions over a long and distinguished period to the understanding and conservation of the flora and vegetation of California, and to the stewardship of CNPS. We want to express our gratitude to George for his dedication, enthusiasm, and scholarship.

—WAYNE R. FERREN, JR.